



Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

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OCT 15 1997

Mr. Mike Wilson, Program Manager
Nuclear Waste Program
State of Washington
Department of Ecology
P. O. Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600



Dear Mr. Wilson:

RESPONSE TO STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY (ECOLOGY) LETTER OF OCTOBER 7, 1997, REGARDING MILESTONE M-15-80-B, COMPLETION OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER COMPREHENSIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (CRCIA)

The U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL), is in receipt of the subject letter, signed by Mr. David Holland, Ecology Project Manager for the Columbia River Comprehensive Impact Assessment (CRCIA). RL does not agree with the statement in the letter (page 4) which asserts that the July 28, 1998, Milestone M-15-80-B submittal from the DOE "...fails to meet the intent of the milestone."

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In the spirit of your letter, DOE also wishes to work with Ecology and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to address the issues raised in the letter. Specifically, as you know, Mr. Bob Stewart, at the direction of Ms. Linda Bauer, DOE's Assistant Manager for Environmental Restoration, has been working to obtain the services of Ms. Mary Lou Blazek of the Oregon Department of Energy to facilitate meetings regarding a path forward for the CRCIA and related issues. On October 9, 1997, we learned from Ms. Blazek, because of other commitments, lacks the time required to coordinate and facilitate these meetings. Therefore, Mr. Stewart has begun a search for a facilitator and will contact Ecology and EPA for recommendations of a person acceptable to the agencies and to the CRCIA Team. Ms. Blazek has graciously offered to assist during these discussions on a time-available basis.

Mr. Mike Wilson

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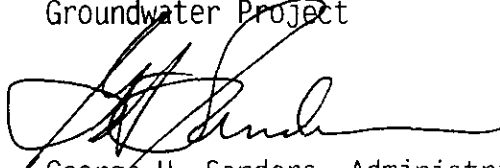
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If you have any questions about this letter, please feel free to contact Mr. Stewart on 376-6192 or Mr. Thompson on 373-0750.

Sincerely,



K. Michael Thompson, Senior Project Manager
Groundwater Project



George H. Sanders, Administrator
Hanford Tri-Party Agreement

GWP:RKS

cc: L. Arnold, FDH
M. Blazek, ODOE
P. Danielson, NPT
G. deBruler, HAB
L. Gadbois, EPA
S. Harris, CTUIR
D. Holland, Ecology
R. Jim, YIN
L. Nicolli, YIN
R. Patt, ODOE
D. Powaukee, NPT
S. Sautter, ODOE
D. Sherwood, EPA
G. Tallent, Ecology
J. Wilkinson, CTUIR
T. Woods, YIN